

2006 State and County Economic & Travel Indicator Profiles

For additional information contact:

Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Utah Office of Tourism
David M. Williams
Deputy Director
Council Hall / Capitol Hill
300 North State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(801) 538-1317
(801) 538-1399 (fax)
dmwilliams@utah.gov
www.utah.travel
travel.utah.gov



INTRODUCTION

Publication Overview

The original *Economic and Travel Industry Profiles for Utah Counties* was developed and published in 1993 by the Utah Division of Travel Development as a means for describing Utah's tourism economy at the state and county level. The economic impact models were developed as a collaborative effort between the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and the Department of Community and Economic Development with input from the Department of Workforce Services, the Utah State Tax Commission, the University of Utah's Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Governor's Economic Coordinating Committee. The report proved to be a valuable source of information for local and regional tourism planning. Since that time, the annual *State and County Economic & Travel Indicator Profiles* has continued to monitor and provide the most accurate and current information on tourism in Utah. Periodic revisions of methodology and design have occurred as necessary to maintain accuracy, consistency and reliability.

Definition of Travel and Tourism

The World Tourism Organization defines the travel and tourism industry as, "...the activities of persons traveling and staying in places outside their usual environment." Consequently, measuring the travel and tourism industry consists of measuring business sectors that provide visitors with the products and services they need while outside their "usual environment."

Such measurement is a complex task, more so since tourism is not an industry in the traditional sense of mining or manufacturing. Main business sectors within the industry usually include transportation, eating and drinking establishments, hotels and other lodging places, auto rentals and amusement and recreation services. While most tourism businesses reside within the services sector of the economy, the impacts of tourism-related businesses often cross boundaries into other sectors, including retail sales, construction, government, public utilities, real estate, agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

Availability of Report

Copies of the annual *State and County Economic & Travel Indicator Profiles* are available in downloadable form on the Office's Internet website: <http://travel.utah.gov/countyprofiles.html> in the Research and Planning section. Print copies of the report are available by contacting the Utah Office of Tourism (call 801-538-1317).

Contributors

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Walt Busse

Governor's Office of Economic Development, Office of Tourism

Kathryn Hill, Rebecca Katz, David Williams

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